



Illinois Children's Justice Task Force

Children's Justice Task Force Quarterly Meeting

May 14, 2019

Williamson County Sheriff's Department | 404 North Van Buren | Marion, Illinois
Virginia M. Zic-Schlomas Presiding

Meeting called to order at 9:20AM.

Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	Present	Via Phone	Absent
Atwood, Tamela	CJTF	X		
Baptist-Spruiell, Sandra	CJTF	X		
Bobo, LaDrena	CJTF			X
Bree, Debra	CJTF	X		
Brown, Leah	CJTF	X		
Christopherson, Mari	CJTF			X
Cowart, Lark	CJTF			X
Glick, Jill	CJTF		X	
Hamann, Paul	CJTF	X		
Hoffmann, Molly	CJTF	X		
Karim, Elba	CJTF		X	
Ma, Cassandra	CJTF			X
Mangiaracino, Kim	CJTF	X		
McNamara, Kathy	CJTF			X
Owens, Evan	CJTF		X	
Parry, Peter	CJTF			X
Petrak, Channing	CJTF		X	
Porter, Chantelle	CJTF			X
Rivette, Char	CJTF	X		
Stine, Mary	CJTF	X		
Stoffer, Brian	CJTF		X	
Theus, Frederika	CJTF		X	
Torres, Rhiannon	CJTF	X		
Zic-Schlomas, Virginia	CJTF	X		
Cobbins, Sherry	CJTF (liaison)	X		
Brown, Alicia	Guest	X		
Mocker, Betty	Guest	X		

Name	Affiliation	Present	Via Phone	Absent
Murphy, Sarah	Guest	X		
Shinn, Kristen	Guest	X		
Harms, Nora	Guest, DCFS	X		
Talbert, Charles	Guest, DCFS		X	
Chavez, Margo	Guest, OVC	X		
Goulet, Betsy	Guest, OVC	X		

- I. **Welcome:** Chair introduced the new administrator, Sherry Cobb. There were no resignations or new members.
- II. **Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** Debra Bree was added. Motion made to approve as amended. Motion passed.
- III. **Approval of February Meeting Minutes:** Request made to add physical address and list of attendees. Motion made and approved to accept with requested changes.

Discussed changes and updates to how meeting minutes are kept. Going forward we will use a template that includes list of attendees. We will also include action items, who is responsible and a desired deadline/date of follow up. **ACTION ITEM:** P. Hamann will provide a suggested template.

- IV. **Public Comment via Open Meetings ACT:** No comments provided.
- V. **Election of New Officers:** Motion made to elect new officers:
Chair Virginia Zic-Schlomas
Vice Chair Paul Hamann
Secretary Rhiannon Torres
Motion approved unanimously.
- VI. **Revision of Bylaws:** G. Zic-Schlomas and C. Rivette proposed an amendment to bylaws that allows the Task Force to vote for members to remain with the Task Force for purposes of continuity. The Chair may recommend a member and the Task Force will conduct a full vote. Proposed language presented in *italics* below.

“Article II – Membership

Section 2: The Director of the Department of the Department shall appoint all members of the Children's Justice Task Force.

Members shall be appointed to 4-year staggered terms. No member shall be appointed to more than two consecutive terms, *with the following exception: the Chair can make a recommendation to extend a term for up to an additional 2 years in situations in which the member's involvement is critical to meeting the goals of the task force. This is valid only upon a full task force vote. As nearly as possible, the terms of one-fourth of the members shall expire each year on June 30th.*

Any member appointed to fill a vacancy for a partial term shall have the option to continue membership through the equivalent of two full terms (8 years)."

ACTION ITEM: *At the August 2019 meeting, include on the agenda a vote to amend the bylaws and include a motion to vote to extend the term of C. Rivette.*

- VII. **Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Funding Opportunity: Reducing Child Fatalities and Recurring Child Injuries Caused by Crime Victimization** is a grant available to reduce child deaths. The grant is applicable to the Task Force and fits within the Needs Assessment. The 3-year term includes a \$750K and 1 Million Grant: Year 1 is a planning year, and years 2 and 3 are planning and implementation. Illinois already has some of the data and may be positioned to utilize.

The Child Death Investigation Task Force has been successful, and to try and replicate.

The CJTF would use the needs assessment to pinpoint areas that could use the grant (Vermillion County, for example).

Betsy Goulet presented on the grant. Betsy runs the Child Protection Training Academy in Springfield that trains first line investigators. Cook County Health will be applying for the grant, Hoyleton will be assisting. Cook County Health has been working on a prevention initiative. Cook County Health is open to having additional sites statewide, where focus could be helpful. Kristen, Margo, Margery to continue to discuss other sites. Key Collaborators such as Hoyleton and supporters such as CJTF would be identified in the grant.

Feedback was given that there was disappointment that DCFS was not applying for the grant and the CJTF strongly recommends that DCFS participate and support in some way.

Proposal before the Task Force: That the Task Force has an advisory role in the administration of the grant if awarded. Already have a presence on Child Death Review

and can inform related to impact statewide. Needs assessment, OIG Report, MDT Report could be used to analyze.

Motion made to support endorsement of the grant and create a resolution providing our support, to write a formal letter of support of how CJTF can be helpful in support in this grant. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made to write a letter to the Director of DCFS. CJTF also recommends that DCFS officially sign on as support, including Cook County Public Guardian. Motion approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: C. Rivette to draft the letter by May 17th; the Chair and Vice Chair will sign the letter to support the grant, with copies to Derek Hobson, Shirley Davis-Barsh, and Nora Harms. The letter will include a formal invitation to join us at meeting in Joliet. S. Cobbins will ask the Director's administrative assistant to put a placeholder on his schedule.

- VIII. **Presentation by the Southern Illinois Task Force Members:** Kristin Shinn from Hoyleton Youth and Family Services and Alecia Barr, State Police. Formed out of Child Death Investigations Task Force when review demonstrated that Southern Counties were in need. Provide community, agency, and law enforcement training and financial support to investigate and educate. Funded by DCFS through the Child Death Review Task Force. Now split into a separate entity and funded through DCFS.
- IX. **Subcommittee Break Out:** Subcommittee chairs to send revisions to S. Cobbins within 2 weeks.
- X. **Legislative Update:** C. Rivette provided Legislative update on ANCRA Amendment related to mandated reporters. Nurses and Doctors must be trained initially after 6 years and attest upon re-licensing. All other mandated reporters every 3 years. At final stage pending Governor approval. This replaces the teachers' requirements.

Senate Bill 456 "Mega Bill." Aimed to protect students against child sexual abuse. Ensure Title IX is followed. Freedom for schools to share information about personnel changes. House Bill 304 & 305 being incorporated into Mega Bill. Allows the video recorded interview to be accessible to the MDT in certain circumstances once specific criteria is met.

House Bill 909 and Senate Bill 1418. K. Mangiaracino provided an update on allowing recording of forensic interviews without parental permission required, forensic interview is exempt from FIOA. Amends the Children's Advocacy Act which was supported by CJTF.

Nora Harms discussed a new pending bill that any case meeting certain criteria that doesn't meet DCFS criteria for eligible perpetrator. Large impact to law enforcement and CAC and burden to DCFS.

- XI. **Child Protection Update:** Nora Harms provided update on new Director, Marc Smith. New Chief of Staff has been appointed. Debra Dyer will remain as Chief Deputy Director. New Director is looking at organization changes and his re-focus is safety. Bringing everyone, including private agencies back through safety training. Simulation Lab is open at the DCFS Emerald Office. Re-focus on re-training supervisors. Focusing on accountability as well.
- XII. **CJA administrator Update:** S. Cobbins provided update on new role of 4 months. Looking for effective collaboration and communication. Recommends that we continue to strategize and create a plan, create a timeline with period review. Charles Talbert will be working together to support the Task Force. Need on-going communications between meetings. Sherry will provide recent budget at next meeting. More education and training for the Task Force.

Task Force asked that we receive formal acknowledgement from senior leadership. S. Cobbins to work with Shirley Davis-Barsh to get some sort of plan together.

- XIII. **Meeting Cadence Discussion:** Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14th. Suggested location Peoria, Illinois. November 13, 2020 (Joliet Area, potentially CAC or DCFS Office), February 12, 2020 (Bloomington/Champaign), May 13, 2020 (Fairview Heights at the Hoyleton Youth and Family Services Office).

Motion made to approve the proposed locations. Motion approved unanimously. Recommendation for guest speaker or presentations from other Citizens Review Boards or DCFS departments.

Meeting adjourned at about 1:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhiannon Torres, Secretary
Children's Justice Task Force